Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1, 4-10, 12-16, 18-21 and new claims 24-28 remain in this application.

The examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-5,10, 15, 17, 21, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Holman, Jr.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,506,990.

The examiner has rejected claims 2, 6-9, 11-14, 16, 18-20, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admission of prior art (AAPA) in view of *Holman*.

In view of the above amendments and these remarks, reconsideration of the above noted rejections and objections is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 USC 102(b) and 103(a):

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of **claims 1, 4, 5,10, 15 and 21** under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by *Holman* and the rejection of **claims 6-9, 12-14, 16 and 18-20** under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of *Holman*.

Claims 2, 3, 11, 17, 22 and 23 have been cancelled by the above amendments.

Claims 24-28 have been added by the above amendments.

Claims 13, 14, 15 and 21 are independent. Formerly independent **claims 1 and 10** have been amended by the above amendments to depend from new independent **claims 24 and 25**, respectively. The current independent claims are thus **claims 13, 14, 15, 21, 24 and 25**.

Independent Claims 13, 14, 15 and 21:

Amended independent **claim 13**, as amended above, recites (among other limitations):

> a **second output** at which a **second signal** is supplied ... when **power-off is disabled** and **an override is enabled**, ... output of the second signal capable of causing the immediate power-down of the computer system.

Additionally, amended independent **claim 14**, as amended above, recites (among other limitations):

> a means for generating a second signal ... while receiving an **override enabled** signal and **not** receiving the power-off enabled signal, ... generation of the second signal capable of causing the immediate power-down of the computer system.

Also, amended independent **claim 15**, as amended above, recites (among other limitations):

> if power-off is disabled, setting the switch mask to one of two **override** modes comprising override enabled and override disabled;
>
> ...
>
> when the switch mask is set to power-off disabled and **override** disabled, preventing powering down the computer system ...; and
>
> when the switch mask is set to power-off disabled and **override** enabled, powering down the computer system ....

Furthermore, amended independent **claim 21**, as amended above, recites (among other limitations):

> generating an **override** signal by the switch mask when power-off is disabled, an **override** is enabled and the power-off signal is generated continuously for a delay period of time; and
>
> powering off the computer system in response to the **override** signal.

Applicant respectfully submits that the AAPA and *Holman* do not teach or suggest these limitations.

Holman appears to disclose that a key switch may be used with a computer power or reset switch, so that the power or reset switch cannot be toggled without a key to actuate the key switch. This mechanism prevents inadvertent or unauthorized toggling of the power or reset switch in the absence of the key. (Column 1, lines 15-30.) *Holman* also appears to disclose an improvement over such key lock designs wherein a computer system has both a secured mode and an unsecured mode. In the secured mode, a key is required to toggle the power or reset switch. In the unsecured mode, the key is not needed in order to toggle the power or reset switch. (Column 1, lines 47-51.)

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The situations in *Holman*, in other words, appear either to completely **disable** the powering-off of the computer (requiring a key to enable) or to completely **enable** the powering-off. There appears to be no disclosure in *Holman* of an ability to disable the powering-off **and** to **override** the disabling, so that power-down or power-off can still be achieved by holding the power switch for a period of time. In this manner, power-off or power-down is possible by generating a second signal, even though the normal power-off signal is disabled. Furthermore, "enabling" and "overriding a disable" are not the same, since they do not occur in the same manner or produce the same signals.

The AAPA does not overcome the deficiency in *Holman*, since the AAPA merely discusses standard ACPI power control features. Such ACPI power control features do not override the disabling of the power-off signal. Additionally, an ACPI-compliant system that incorporates the disclosure of *Holman* would **not** be able to **override** the key lock of *Holman*.

Applicant respectfully submits, therefore, that independent **claims 13, 14, 15 and 21** are not anticipated by, are not obvious in view of, and are patentable over *Holman* at least because the reference does not teach or fairly suggest an **override** of the disabling of the power-off feature as claimed.

Dependent Claims 16 and 18-20 and New Dependent Claims 26-28:

Since dependent **claims 16 and 18-20** and new dependent **claims 26-28** depend directly or indirectly from amended independent claim 15, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent **claims 16 and 18-20** and new dependent **claims 26-28** are not anticipated by, are not obvious in view of, and are patentable over *Holman* at least because of the same reasons.

New Independent Claims 24 and 25:

New independent **claim 24** recites (among other limitations):

> a mask connected to the switch, and which: ... asserts a second signal in response to continuous generation of the power-off signal for a delay period when power-off is disabled and an **override** is enabled ...

Additionally, new independent **claim 25** recites (among other limitations):

> a means ... for asserting a second signal in response to continuous generation of the power-off signal for a delay period when power-off is disabled and an **override** is enabled; ...

Applicant respectfully submits that the AAPA and *Holman* do not teach or suggest these limitations. As discussed above, the AAPA and *Holman* appear **not** to disclose an ability to disable the powering-off **and** to **override** the disabling, so that power-down or power-off can still be achieved by holding the power switch for a period of time. Applicant respectfully submits, therefore, that new independent **claims 24 and 25** are not anticipated by, are not obvious in view of, and are patentable over *Holman* at least because the reference does not teach or fairly suggest an **override** of the disabling of the power-off feature as claimed.

Dependent Claims 1, 4-10 and 12:

Since dependent **claims 1, 4-10 and 12** depend directly or indirectly from new independent claims 24 and 25, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent **claims 1, 4-10 and 12** are not anticipated by, are not obvious in view of, and are patentable over *Holman* at least because of the same reasons.

Claim Amendments and New Claims:

The above new claims and amendments to the preexisting claims do not add new matter. In particular, support in the Specification for the amendments to independent **claims 13, 14, 15 and 21** and for the new **claims 24-28** may be found in paragraphs [0021]-[0026]. Amendments to **claims 1, 4-10, 16 and 18-20** were made in accordance with the limitations of the claims from which they depend.
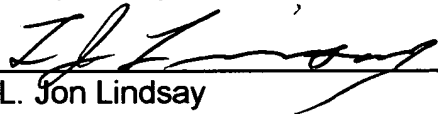
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Conclusion:

For the reasons specifically discussed above, and others, it is believed that pending **claims 1, 4-10, 12-16, 18-21** and new **claims 24-28** define patentable subject matter. Reconsideration of the previous rejections and objections as they might apply to the pending claims is therefore respectfully requested. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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